GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1411
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003
DISEASE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM
SRINIVASULU KALAVA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is unable to predict, prevent the recent outbreaks of diseases in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons for the failure;

(c) whether there is no disease surveillance system in the country to provide early warning signals of outbreaks of diseases;

(d) whether the lack of epidemiological intelligence with the Government is responsible for the hundreds of deaths from the under privileged sections of the society; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (e) The National Institute of CommunicableDisease (NICD) carries out the investigations of outbreaks on the request of the State Government and suggest suitable control measures. NICD is also involved in carrying outtraining of district level health personnel in surveillance and control of epidemic prone diseases including detection of early warning signals of outbreaks. During the year 2003, the teams from NICD assisted the StateHealth Authorities of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal in investigating the outbreaks. For surveillance of disease, the Governemnt of India initiated National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases (NSPCD)in the year 1997 which at present is being implemented in 101 districts of the country. A state based decentralized Integrated Diseases Surveillance Programme (IDSP) is on the anvil to coverall the districts during the 10th plan period.